

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 037481
ORIGIN SS-25

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S/S- MR. GAMBLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037481

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BRITISH AND THE SOUTH
AFRICANS OVER RHODESIA

1. IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS AT THE CAPE TOWN PRESS CLUB ON
FEBRUARY 16, FOREIGN MINISTER MULLER OF SOUTH AFRICA RE-
FERRED TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT BRITAIN, THE UNITED
STATES AND SOUTH AFRICA WERE PLANNING A NEW INITIATIVE
AND MAY BE MEETING AT A HIGH LEVEL. MULLER'S ANSWERS
TO THE PRESS FOLLOW SEVERAL DAYS OF PRESS REPORTS IN
BRITAIN, THE UNITED STATES AND SOUTH AFRICA WHICH
MENTIONED VORSTER'S MEETING WITH SMITH AND HIS SUBSEQUENT
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MEETING WITH THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN AMBASSADORS. WE
AND THE BRITISH HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT PRESS SPECU-
LATION, COUPLED WITH MULLER'S REMARKS IN CAPE TOWN,
WILL FEED EXPECTATIONS THAT A BREAKTHROUGH ON RHODESIA
IS IMMINENT. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT AFRICANS MAY
CONCLUDE WE, THE BRITISH AND THE SOUTH AFRICANS ARE
DESIGNING A SETTLEMENT WITHOUT CONSULTING THEM.

2. STRICTLY FYI. WE EXPECT TO CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS
IN WASHINGTON WITH THE BRITISH ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21.
WE MAY ALSO BE DISCUSSING THE SITUATION WITH THE SOUTH

AFRICAN AMBASSADOR WITH A VIEW TO PINNING DOWN HIS
GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON HOW TO RELAUNCH THE NEGOTIATIONS.
NO HIGH LEVEL MEETING IS CURRENTLY PLANNED. END FYI.

3. YOU SHOULD CONTACT YOUR FOREIGN MINISTER OR AN
OFFICIAL AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND SAY THAT THERE HAS
BEEN CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT THE
PROSPECT OF A SOUTH AFRICAN, BRITISH AND AMERICAN
INITIATIVE ON RHODESIA AND A HIGH LEVEL MEETING. YOU
SHOULD SAY THAT NO SUCH MEETING IS CURRENTLY PLANNED.
WE ARE CONTINUING OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BRITISH
AND THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND ARE EXPLORING WITH THEM THE
POSSIBILITIES OF BRINGING SMITH BACK TO THE NEGOTIATIONS.
WE WILL, OF COURSE, STAY IN TOUCH WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS
AS WE CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.
HARTMAN

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NNN

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